

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. A base station, servicing a macrocell, comprising:
2 at least one steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array, co-located with an antenna of said
3 base station, for serving a microcell within the macrocell.

1 2. The base station of claim 1, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional array
2 serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the
3 macrocell.

1 3. The base station of claim 1, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

1 4. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station includes a steerable
2 N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array for each microcell within the macrocell.

1 5. The base station of claim 1, said at least one steerable N-dimensional array further
2 including,
3 at least two antenna elements, and
4 an N-dimensional digital filter for receiving inputs from said at least two antenna
5 elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed output.

1 6. The base station of claim 5, wherein at least one of inputs and outputs of said at
2 least two antenna elements are weighted to steer a resultant output beam of said at least one
3 steerable N-dimensional array.

1 7. The base station of claim 6, wherein the at least one of inputs and outputs of said at
2 least two antenna elements are weighted using variable filter tap weights.

1 8. The base station of claim 1, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional
2 ($N \geq 2$) array serves a hot spot.

1 9. The base station of claim 6, wherein an angular spread and look direction of the
2 resultant output beam of said at least one steerable N-dimensional array are varied by varying
3 a number of filter taps.

1 10. The base station of claim 5, wherein said at least two antenna elements are
2 arranged in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 11. The base station of claim 9, wherein complex coefficients for the filter taps are

2 given by: $w_j = \cos \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$

3 where k= the filter tap,

4 d= antenna element spacing,

5 θ = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

6 λ = wavelength of an incident signal.

1 12. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station is part of a TDMA system
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

1 13. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station is part of a CDMA system
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the code
3 domains.

1 14. A method of servicing at least one microcell in a macrocell, comprising:
2 co-locating at least one steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array with an antenna of said
3 base station;
4 steering a resultant beam of the at least one steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array
5 toward the at least one microcell.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional array
2 serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the
3 macrocell.

Sub ai 004250 05694550

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein said co-locating step includes co-locating a
2 steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array with the base station for each microcell within the
3 macrocell.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one steerable N-dimensional array
2 includes at least two antenna elements and an N-dimensional digital filter for receiving inputs
3 from the at least two antenna elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed
4 output.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising weighting at least one of inputs and
2 outputs of said at least two antenna elements to steer the resultant output beam of said at least
3 one steerable N-dimensional array.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said weighting step includes weighting the at
2 least one of inputs and outputs of the at least two antenna elements using variable filter tap
3 weights.

1 21. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one steerable N-dimensional array
2 serves a hot spot.

1 22. The method of claim 19, further comprising varying a number of filter taps of the
2 resultant output beam of the at least one steerable N-dimensional array to vary an angular
3 spread and look direction of the resultant output beam.

1 23. The method of claim 18, further comprising arranging the at least two antenna
2 elements in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein complex coefficients for the number of filter taps
2 are given by:

Sub
ai
004250-6697560

$$w_j = \cos \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$$

where k = the filter tap,

d = antenna element spacing,

θ = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

λ = wavelength of an incident signal.

25. The method of claim 14, wherein the base station is part of a TDMA system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

26. The method of claim 14, wherein the base station is part of a CDMA system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the code domains.

27. A base station, servicing a macrocell, comprising:
steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array means, co-located with an antenna of said base station, for serving a microcell within the macrocell.

28. The base station of claim 27, wherein said steerable N-dimensional array means serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the macrocell.

29. The base station of claim 27, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

30. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station includes steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array means for each microcell within the macrocell.

31. The base station of claim 27, said steerable N-dimensional array means further including,

at least two antenna elements, and

N-dimensional digital filter means for receiving inputs from said at least two antenna elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed output.

1 32. The base station of claim 31, wherein at least one of inputs and outputs of said at
2 least two antenna elements are weighted to steer a resultant output beam of said steerable N-
3 dimensional array means.

1 33. The base station of claim 32, wherein the at least one of inputs and outputs of said
2 at least two antenna elements are weighted using variable filter tap weights.

1 34. The base station of claim 27, wherein said steerable N-dimensional ($N \geq 2$) array
2 means serves a hot spot.

1 35. The base station of claim 32, wherein an angular spread and look direction of the
2 resultant output beam of said steerable N-dimensional array means are varied by varying a
3 number of filter taps.

1 36. The base station of claim 31, wherein said at least two antenna elements are
2 arranged in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 37. The base station of claim 35, wherein complex coefficients for the filter taps are

2 given by:
$$w_j = \cos \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$$

3 where k = the filter tap,

4 d = antenna element spacing,

5 θ = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

6 λ = wavelength of an incident signal.

1 38. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station is part of a TDMA system
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

1 39. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station is part of a CDMA
2 system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the
3 code domains.